

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL**

**Meeting of January 8, 2014**

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Henry I. Bowditch Public Health Council Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
250 Washington Street, Boston MA**

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**Docket: Wednesday, January 8, 2014, 9:00 AM**

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**1. ROUTINE ITEMS:**

- a. Introductions

**2. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION:** Steward Health Care System Performance Monitoring

**3. DETERMINATION OF NEED**

- a. Project application number 4-3C28 of Steward St. Elizabeth's Medical Center of Boston for the establishment of a 15-bed geriatric psychiatric satellite unit at Steward Carney Hospital in Dorchester. **(Approved)**
- b. Significant change amendment to approved project application number 4-3C16 of Steward Norwood Hospital to undertake additional renovations to existing medical/surgical inpatient units. **(Approved)**

**4. DRAFT REGULATION:**

Proposed amendments to 105 CMR 170.000: *Emergency Medical Services System*, for EMT certification based on National Registry of EMT examination and certification  
**(Informational Briefing)**

## Public Health Council

Presented below is a summary of the meeting, including time-keeping, attendance and votes cast.

**Date of Meeting:** Wednesday, January 8, 2014

**Beginning Time:** 9:05 AM

**Ending Time:** 11:05 AM

### Attendance and Summary of votes

Board Member	Attended	Item 3a.	Item 3b.
		Project application number 4-3C28 of Steward St. Elizabeth's Medical Center of Boston for the establishment of a 15-bed geriatric psychiatric satellite unit at Steward Carney Hospital in Dorchester.	Significant change amendment to approved project application number 4-3C16 of Steward Norwood Hospital to undertake additional renovations to existing medical/surgical inpatient units.
Cheryl Bartlett	<b>Yes</b>	Yes	Yes
Edward Bernstein	No	---	---
Derek Brindisi	<b>Yes</b>	Yes	Yes
Harold Cox	<b>Yes</b>	Yes	Yes
John Cunningham	<b>Yes</b>	Yes	(2 <sup>nd</sup> ) / Yes
Michele David	<b>Yes</b>	Yes	Yes
Meg Doherty	<b>Yes</b>	Yes	Yes
Michael Kneeland	No	---	---
Paul Lanzikos	<b>Yes</b>	Yes	Yes
Denis Leary	<b>Yes</b>	Yes	Yes
Lucilia Prates-Ramos	<b>Yes</b>	Yes	Yes
Jose Rafael Rivera	<b>Yes</b>	Yes	Yes
Meredith Rosenthal	<b>Yes</b>	Yes	Yes
Alan Woodward	<b>Yes</b>	(2 <sup>nd</sup> ) / Yes	(M) / Yes
Michael Wong	<b>Yes</b>	(M) / Yes	Yes
<b>Summary</b>	<b>13 members attended</b>	<b>13 Approved with votes</b>	<b>13 Approved with votes</b>

(M): Made motion      (2<sup>nd</sup>): Seconded motion

## **PROCEEDINGS**

A regular meeting of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Public Health Council (M.G.L. C17, §§ 1, 3) was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), 250 Washington Street, Henry I. Bowditch Public Health Council Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

Members present were: MDPH Commissioner Cheryl Bartlett (chair), Mr. Harold Cox, Mr. Derek Brindisi, Dr. Michele David, Mr. Jose Rafael Rivera, Ms. Meg Doherty, Dr. Alan Woodward, Mr. Denis Leary, Dr. Michael Wong, Ms. Lucilia Prates-Ramos, Dr. Meredith Rosenthal, Mr. Paul Lanzikos and Dr. John Cunningham

Absent members were: Dr. Edward Bernstein and Dr. Michael Kneeland

Also in attendance was Attorney Donna Levin, General Counsel, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Commissioner Bartlett called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM and reviewed the agenda.

### **ITEM 2: INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: Steward Health Care System Performance Monitoring**

Madeleine Biondolillo, MD, Associate Commissioner and Nicholas Leydon, Quality Improvement Advisor, Health Care Safety and Quality, presented an informational presentation on Steward Health Care System Performance Monitoring. The following PHC members arrived between 9:31 and 9:39 a.m. during the presentation: Mr. Lanzkios, Dr. Rosenthal, Ms. Doherty, and Dr. David.

Following the presentation, Commissioner Bartlett opened the floor for discussion. Public Health Council (PHC) members asked questions and discussed a variety of issues raised by the report, including the completeness and availability of data from Steward Health Care System (Mr. Cox and Dr. Woodward), Serious Reportable Events (SREs) (Mr. Lanzikos and Dr. Rosenthal, who asked specifically about falls in psychiatric units), influenza immunization rates for hospital workers (Dr. Woodward), data collection and analysis capacity and practices within the Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality (Mr. Cox and Mr. Lanzikos), integration and analysis of quality measures discussed in the report with measures used by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Dr. Wong), progress with improving financial viability and long term stability of the Steward hospitals (Dr. Woodward), and accessibility to hospital facilities (Mr. Rivera). Dr. Woodward asked for a report about Steward Health Care System's long term stability at a future PHC meeting, and Commissioner Bartlett pledged that the Department would produce one.

### **ITEM 3a: DON: DETERMINATION OF NEED: Project application number 4-3C28 of Steward St. Elizabeth's Medical Center of Boston for the establishment of a 15-bed geriatric psychiatric satellite unit at Steward Carney Hospital in Dorchester.**

Bernard Plovnick, Director, Determination of Need program, and Jere Page, Senior Program Analyst, DoN program, presented project number 4-3C28 of Steward St. Elizabeth's Medical Center of Boston for the establishment of a 15-bed geriatric psychiatric satellite unit at Steward Carney Hospital in Dorchester. Mr. Plovnick explained the application involves dual licensing with DPH and

the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and constitutes a significant change of service under DPH regulations. Mr. Page presented the staff recommendation to approve the application and noted DMH supports the application.

Following the presentation, Commissioner Bartlett opened the floor for discussion. Dr. Woodward asked about availability of space for the project at Carney Hospital. Kevin Hannifan, St. Elizabeth's CEO, replied Steward will gut rehab previous administrative space on the 4th floor at Carney to create the proposed unit. Dr. Woodward also asked about existing psychiatric beds at Carney and St. Elizabeth's Hospitals and praised the overall initiative to improve psychiatric service capacity. Mr. Lanzikos expressed support for the application, noting its potential to reduce SREs related to falls with the new facility. He suggested investing Factor 9 community health initiative funds in-home mental health services. Commissioner Bartlett said the Department would take that into consideration.

Dr. Wong moved to approve project number 4-3C28 of Steward St. Elizabeth's Medical Center of Boston for the establishment of a 15-bed geriatric psychiatric satellite unit at Steward Carney Hospital in Dorchester. The motion was seconded by Dr. Woodward. The DoN was approved with thirteen members voting in the affirmative. There were no abstentions or recusals.

**ITEM 3b: DON: DETERMINATION OF NEED: Significant change amendment to approved project application number 4-3C16 of Steward Norwood Hospital to undertake additional renovations to existing medical/surgical inpatient units.**

Bernard Plovnick, Director, Determination of Need program, presented project number 4-3C16 of Steward Norwood Hospital to undertake additional renovations to existing medical/surgical inpatient units.

Following the presentation, Commissioner Bartlett opened the floor for discussion. Dr. Woodward asked why the units had not been included in the original application. Andrew Levine, the attorney representing Steward Norwood Hospital, explained management had reassessed available resources and acknowledged the project might have been better anticipated. Dr. Cunningham asked whether the loss of beds associated with the proposal would pose a problem. Mr. Plovnick replied that the Hospital already had unused bed capacity.

Dr. Woodward moved to approve project application number 4-3C16 of Steward Norwood Hospital to undertake additional renovations to existing medical/surgical inpatient units. The motion was seconded by Dr. Cunningham. The DoN was approved with thirteen members voting in the affirmative. There were no abstentions or recusals.

**ITEM 4: DRAFT REGULATION: Proposed amendments to 105 CMR 170.000: *Emergency Medical Services System*, for EMT certification based on National Registry of EMT examination and certification (Informational Briefing)**

Jamie Pianka, Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality, and Sondra Korman, Deputy General Counsel presented an informational briefing on Proposed amendments to 105 CMR 170.000: *Emergency Medical Services System*, for EMT certification based on National Registry of EMT examination and certification.

Following the presentation, Commissioner Bartlett opened the floor up for discussion. Mr. Brindisi asked whether there is a problem with EMTs from other states getting certification in Massachusetts, and also whether there is a shortage of EMTs in Mass. Mr. Pianka said he would look into both questions. Mr. Cox asked for more general information about the Mass. EMS service system, which Mr. Pianka provided. Dr. Woodward asked whether the proposed regulations would limit augmenting the scope of practice beyond minimum ALS requirements. Mr. Pianka replied they would not. Dr. Woodward also noted the value of regionalizing EMS services and encouraged the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) to promote that. Dr. David and Ms. Doherty asked about "grandfathering" the current Massachusetts workforce into the national registry. Mr. Pianka said the only way to get national certification is to pass the required examination. OEMS will adjust continuing education requirements to prepare people to qualify when they seek renewal and take the national registry exam. Ms. Doherty asked how DPH is dealing with the fact that some hospitals don't have board certified trauma physicians to provide the new level of supervision required in the regulations. Mr. Pianka noted only two hospitals do not have that capacity and said he expects some municipalities may need to pay contract fees to arrange appropriate supervision. Dr. Woodward asked about oversight of testing, in light of the public scandal with EMT training credentials several years ago. Mr. Pianka said monitoring systems have been strengthened since then, and these regulations are designed, in part, to eliminate such concerns. Mr. Cunningham asked whether training will be done by accredited training entities. Mr. Pianka says OEMS provides oversight through course approval, and some training is provided within local EMS systems. Mr. Rivera expressed concern about potential barriers of entry to the profession for diverse populations, including those with financial challenges. In closing, Mr. Pianka noted a public hearing is scheduled for February 7, 2014.

**The meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM on a motion by Dr. Woodward and passed unanimously without discussion.**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS PRESENTED TO THE PHC FOR THIS MEETING:**

1. Docket of the meeting
2. Semi-Annual Report on Adjudicatory Decisions
3. DoN Pending List
4. Staff Summary for DON Steward St. Elizabeth's Medical Center of Boston for the establishment of a 15-bed geriatric psychiatric satellite unit at Steard Carney Hospital in Dorchester.
5. Memo for DoN Steward Norwood Hospital
6. Memo on informational briefing of proposed amendments to Emergency Medical Services System, for EMT certification based on National Registry of EMT examination and certification.
7. Copies of all power point presentations (emailed upon conclusion of the meeting)

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Commissioner Cheryl Bartlett, Chair